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LETTER DATED 6 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Mohamed-Salah Dembri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/1995/986).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the States members of the Security Council and arrange for it to be circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) R. LAMAMRA
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 6 December 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria addressed to the President of the Security Council

In its capacity as an official observer of the process of settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara and in the light of its manifold contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and its concern to see a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara, Algeria would like to make known to you its views and observations on the content of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara, dated 24 November 1995 (S/1995/986).

The members of the Security Council are aware that Algeria strongly supported the settlement plan drawn up jointly by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and welcomed its acceptance by the two parties to the conflict, as well as its adoption by the Security Council and by the international community as a whole.

Since then, Algeria, in supporting the efforts of the United Nations and OAU, has always acted responsibly and confidently, desiring to play its part in ensuring the success of the efforts of the United Nations Mission to organize a fair, impartial and credible referendum on self-determination.

It is precisely a concern for the credibility and effectiveness of the referendum that prompts the international community's commitment and support for ensuring, in particular, that, thanks to the strict and scrupulous implementation of the settlement plan, the integrity of the United Nations operation is not impugned on the grounds that it has been manoeuvred into holding a referendum whose outcome is a foregone conclusion.

The suggestions made in the report of the Secretary-General represent a serious backsliding from the very explicit commitments and assurances given to us by the Secretary-General and his Acting Special Representative, and they are a flagrant reversal with respect to the letter which he addressed to you on 27 October 1995 (S/1995/924). It was emphasized at the time that the identification process would necessarily be based on documents issued by the Spanish administration, the colonial Power at the time, since they were the only evidence of the ancestry of Saharan nationals.

To open the door to a possible modification of the pool of eligible voters through the introduction of tens of thousands of new voters cannot but satisfy the party to the conflict which is advocating a confirmatory referendum.

In its capacity as an official observer of the settlement process, Algeria wishes to convey to you its disquiet at such a prospect, which poses a serious threat to the future of the settlement process and to a future of peace and stability. The Security Council cannot ignore such a threat.

(Signed) Mohamed Salah DEMBRI